



First Presbyterian
HICKORY NC



We're glad you have chosen to worship with us this morning at First Presbyterian! If you are visiting with us, we hope you'll find this church a place of welcome and spiritual growth. Here are a few things to help you worship fully with us!



Please sign the black Friendship Pad located in the pew and give us an outlet to reach out to you.



We are Presbyterians. We say "debts and debtors" in the Lord's Prayer, and we say "Holy Ghost" and "He descended into hell" in the Apostles' Creed. The congregation's responses are printed in bold. We usually sit to listen and pray and then we stand to sing. The asterisk invites the congregation to stand. Please use the red hymnal, Glory to God, in the pew rack. You are encouraged to follow the readings and the lyrics as they are printed in this worship guide.



Our restrooms are located in the hallway behind the choir loft-both on the left and the right sides. If you need to use the restroom we ask that you do this before worship or exit through the rear of the sanctuary while the congregation is standing.



Small children are always welcome in worship, although nursery care is available for children birth-4 years old. The Nursery is located in our Educational Building; one of our ushers would be happy to guide you there.



We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month. The Elders will pass plates of bread and trays of unfermented wine to each pew OR you will be invited to the closest station to tear a piece of bread and dip into the communion cup (intinction). Gluten-free bread is available from the ushers at the rear of the sanctuary.



First Presbyterian Church is a congregation of the PC(USA) denomination. For more information about our church, call us at 828-322-6343 or please visit our website, www.hickoryfpc.org.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Third Sunday After Epiphany
January 21, 2018

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Remember us, O God, remember your promises to us.
Come to us that we might once more praise your name.

P: **Give us hope, O God, come in your steadfast love to meet us. Then we will sing loud songs of praise to you. And in the morning light, all who hear will join in with joyful voices, for our God does not forget us.**

***HYMN 35** Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty (Psalm 103)

LOBE DEN HERREN

*Please
remember to
silence all
electronic
devices.*

*For use as you
prepare for
worship.*

*The hymn
poem was
written in
1680.*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

***OUR RESPONSE HYMN 377 I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light HOUSTON**



I want to see the bright-ness of God. I want to
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness,
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the
cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Many passages of scripture focus on the theme of light. "This is the message we have heard and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all." 1 John 1:5

***SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE**

One: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Nina Elizabeth Jimenez King,
Daughter of Jay King and granddaughter of John and Evelyn King

OUR RESPONSE HYMN 486 Child of Blessing, Child of Promise KINGDOM

**Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign,
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.**

**Child of God, your loving Parent, learn to listen for God's call.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship; trust and love God more than all.**

ANTHEM

The Fruit of the Spirit

Dan Forrest

He that abideth in me, and I in him,
the same bringeth forth much fruit:
Love, joy, peace, patience, tenderness,
goodness, faith, meekness and self-control.

*The anthem
was written in
2007. It is based
on Galatians
5:22f.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-3

Pew Bible, page 655

***PSALTER** Psalm 13 Hymn 779 How Long, O God, Will My Prayers Be in Vain?

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 5:4

Pew Bible, page 4

SERMON

Near to the Heart of God

Rev. Whit Malone

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

*The hymn is a
1986
paraphrase of
Psalm 30 by
Rev. Fred
Anderson,
PCUSA.*

***HYMN 805**

Come Sing to God, O Living Saints (Psalm 30)

ELLACOMBE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (excerpted from A Brief Statement of Faith)

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive
our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Offertory

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE HYMN 606**

Doxology

OLD HUNDRETH

*This Doxology
was first
printed in John
Calvin's
Genevan
Psalter in
1551.*

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

***HYMN 839** Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine! (Psalm 146) ASSURANCE
The poem is based on Ps. 146:2, "I will sing praises to my God all my life long."

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Whit Malone Liturgist: Dr. John Bates
Director of Music: Dr. Steven Mowery Organist: Dr. Martha Geouge Hill
Musicians: Chancel Choir
Choral Scholars: Samantha Miller and Sophie Sauer, Soprano; Hailey Baskin and Rebecca Storie, Alto;
Matthew Storie, Tenor; Carter Woolly and Skyler Villegas, Bass

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pat Bain, Jim and Judith Tarlton, Adelaide Silkworth, Ben Bost, Sean McGinnis,
Rebeca Costa, Cathi Dillon, Bob and Susie Abercrombie, and the Etowah Presbyterian Church

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

MENU: Roast Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans and Seasonal Green Salad. Sign up forms available on our website: www.hickoryfpc.org.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULT PROGRAMMING OPTIONS

[TED Talks: The Surprising Science of Happiness](#) - Session Room

[Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving and Finding the Church](#)

by Rachel Held Evans

Teacher: Heather Davis - Room: 201A

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Gospel in Life - Grace Changes Everything by Timothy Keller
Begins Monday, January 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM **OR** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 6:30 PM
R.S.V.P. by calling the Church Office at 828.322.6343

ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

Friday, January 26, 2018, from 4:30 - 8:00 PM
NEW Hickory Soup Kitchen (110 2nd St PI SE) Cost: \$10

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for the 2018-2019 school year are available at the church office. Application and required documents are due back to the church office by March 31, 2018.

CHURCH CALDENDAR

SUNDAY, January 21

Sunday School	9:45 A.M.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10 A.M.
Sr. Highs to St. Aloysius for Worship	11 A.M.
Kairos & Sanctuary Worship Services	11 A.M.
Stephen Ministry Training	5 P.M.

MONDAY, January 22

Bridge Club	9:30 A.M.
Intercessory Prayer	9:30 A.M.
Women's Bible Study	10 A.M.
Staff Meeting	11 A.M.
Kerygma Bible Study	6:30 P.M.
Cub Scout Meeting	7 P.M.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

Men's Gathering	8 A.M.
Congregational Retreat Planning Committee Meeting	10 A.M.
Women's Bible Study	6:30 P.M.
Boy Scouts	7 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, January 24

Bridge Club	9:30 A.M.
Wednesday Night Supper	5:30 P.M.
Adult Programming/FP3/WWF/Huddle/Handbell Rehearsal	6:15 P.M.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 P.M.
Kairos Band Rehearsal	7 P.M.

THURSDAY, January 25

Art Class	9:30 A.M.
Program Staff Meeting	9:30 A.M.

FRIDAY, January 26

Young Men's Bible Study	6:30 A.M.
Pilgrimage Reunion	7 A.M.

SUNDAY, January 28

Sunday School	9:45 A.M.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	10 A.M.
Kairos & Sanctuary Worship Services	11 A.M.
Sr. High Youth Service Planning & Dinner	4 P.M.
Stated Session Meeting	7 P.M.